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LETTERS OF WILLIAM BYRD, FIRST.

(From his letter book in the Collection of the Virginia Historical Society.)

(Continued.)

TO MR. NORTH.

Virg 'a. July y^e 26th 1689

S^r

This Serves to accompany Cap^t Hogben by whom I have Sent you 6 H^d^s of ffures & skins, I thinke they are prety good in their kind, the Invoice inclosed, Cap^t Perry I hope will take the Bills of Ladeing I enclose one, I wish them Safe to you. Wee have rec^d no certain intelligence from England since Burrell w^{ch} leaves us much in y^e Darke, Wee have discontented Governments round us, & the Indians are very troublesome to us at this time especially ab^t y^e head of James River where they daily kill considerable numbers of Cattle & hogs & have shot at Some people, God send us peace.

ffor Crops here are very mean ones, though I am told they are Large enough to y^e Northward, I fear there is Small hopes of y^e market wth you, & I doubt wee shall not persuade the Planters to make it as it ought to bee (haveing Such Small Crops they will indeavour to make the most of itt).

I have not Seen Arthur Spicer Since his Ariveall, & now do not expect to See him before 8b^r generall Cout, when I shall bee freely willing to Submit to anything thats reasonable.

Please to give my best respects to all our friends wishing you all health & happiness I remain

S^r

Yo^r reall frd & Serv^t

W B

If this comes not too late let most of my plains bee blew
& Send mee ab^t 200 Yds more (of y^e Same Colour) then is
exprest in y^e Invoice

W B

To m^r North by Hogben

To_____

Virg'a Dec y^e 28 1689

S^r

This is onely to cover y^e inclosed bill of Ex^{ed} w^{ch} I have
had Some time by mee, but meeting no oppertunity to Send itt,
I now Leave it Wth y^e Collecto^r for y^e first.

I sent you last Summer both y^e 1st & 2^d bills of Ex^{ed} for
£39, 13s, 6d but have not as yet heard a word from you, but
wee daily expect Some Small vessells from your parts, wherein
I hope to have advice in the interim I remain

S^r

Yo^{rs} to Serve you

W B

Bills sent last summer	£	s	d
Jno Sandford on Thomas Duboy's for	12	05	06
Thomas Cox on Ben Bullard for	20	14	00
Tho. Hodges on Colo. Jno Johnson for	06	14	00
	£39	13	06

Now

Rob ^t Egerton & Edward Lilington on Geo. Lilington			
Esq ^r & Cap ^t Hen'y Applewaite for	15	07	00
	£55	00	06

To————

Virg'a May y^e 29th 1690S^r

This is chiefly to cover y^e inclosed 2^d bills of Ex^{ad} y^e first Sent Some time Since as also another drawne by R^t Egerton on J. Lilington Esq^r &c for £15-7 both 1st & 2^d formerly Sent

By my Last I desired you by the first oppertunity to Send mee ab^t 2^e ordinary Loafe Sugar, 1 Chest Oronges & ab^t 20 l of Muscovado Sugar in Large Barrells I shall not now adde more but wth due respects take Leave

S^rYo^r frd & Serv^t

W B

List of ye inclosed Bills

Thomas Cox on Ben Bullard for	£22	02	10
Andrew Woodly on Roger Thomas	2	18	06
Tho Hodge on m ^r Duboys	3	11	03
Nat Macklenahan on yo ^r Selfe	1	11	03
Zach Jarvis on Alex Taggart	5	17	03
Mat Este on Colo Salter	7	18	06

£43 19 07

Rob Egerton on Geo. Lilington both 1st & 2^d formerly Sent

15 07

£59 06 07

TO THE COMMISSIONERS OF THE NAVY.

Virginia July y^e 24th 1690R^t Hon'ble

The inclosed papers will informe your hono^{rs} of y^e occasion of this trouble, I haveing p^d by Order of their Majesty's President & Councell here, (out of y^r Maty^e Revenue of this Country) One Hundred & Seventy pounds three shillings & one penny Stg in Severall disbursements for Clothing & provisions to Seamen belonging to their Majesty's Ketch y^e Deptford

I have also according to y^e afores^d Orders charged on yo^r Hono^{rs} by Ex^{ca} the Same Sum of One Hundred Seventy pounds three shillings & one peny (payable to Mess^{rs} Micajah Perry & Tho: Lane of Londⁿ merchants) w^{ch} I humbly desire may bee p^d accordingly that their Maty^s Revenue here may bee reimburs^t, Inclosed herewth is a Copy of y^e aboves^d Order of their Maty^s Presid^t & Councell, as also a Copy of y^e Acco^{ts} attested by M^r Secretary Cole, I remain

R^t Honbl^e

Yo^r most Humble & Obedient Serv^t

W B

To y^e R^t Hon^{'ble} y^e Com^{rs}
of their Maty^s Navy
Duplicates Sent

TO THOMAS BYRD

Virg'a July 25th 1690

Dear Bro:

Yo^{rs} I rec^d by Doct^r Tubb & heartily congratulate your Marriage wishing you both all imaginable Happiness, Pray give mine wth my wives Service to our Sister your wife & accept y^e Same yo^r selfe wth thanks for y^e Gloves.

I should bee glad to hear from both my Sisters Robinson & Guy fare but they dont thinke itt worth their while to lett mee hear from them, therefore should desire you to informe mee by yo^r next.

Pray give my Service to all our friends, & Salute your good wife from mee, for I am sure no man wishes you more happiness then

Yo^r Loving Bro: & Serv^t

W B

To my Bro Tom
p Ruddes

TO WARHAM HORSMANDEN

Virg'a July y^e 25th 1690

Worthy S^r

I rec^d two from you this year, w^h gave us great Satisfaccon

in hearing of all yo^r healths att Purleigh, amidst y^e late amazing revolutions, & truely I must acknowledge that it Seems apparent to mee, that none can bee So happy or contented as those that are retired from Public business, or great Traffic, experience of y^e trouble & danger in both cases I have had Severely last year, though I hope wth y^e help of Some more potent Gold to Secure my first Station, & for my Losses, (I thanke God) I can bear wth Patience, tho a few Such, would put mee out of danger of Loosing Soe much again:

I have wrote to Mess^{rs} Perry to Send for my Son (1) for London & there to put him into business, & lett him Learne what may bee wanting yet to accomplish him for that purpose I have also order'd m^r Perry to take y^e Girls from School, but must confess I am Somewhat more at a Losse how to dispose of them, since London cannot bee So convenient, & to Send for them hither (at least in these times) is very improper therefore must leave itt to them to dispose of the girls as well as they can, not doubting herein your assistance;

Colo. Ludwell (2) I find hath done no great matter by his long Stay in England, haveing rather exasperated matters, than done himsele any good, My Lady & hee were lately both in health.

My wife & family (I thanke God) are indifferent well, onely I had lately one murdered & two carryed away by the Indians within this twelfe moneths I hope to gett Setled att Westopher

(3) (w^{ch} I bought last year) where (at least our Selves) will bee out of Danger. Pray accept of our duty to yo^r selfe &

(1) William Byrd, the son, was now fifteen years of age.

(2) Col. Philip Ludwell went to England in the latter part of 1688 carrying a petition of the House of Burgesses for relief from the Governor Lord Effingham's misgovernment. Ludwell presented the petition to the Privy Council on March 28, 1689. He was successful in attaining favorable action on most of the points treated of. Byrd was a friend of Effingham's and apparently did not look with favor on Ludwell's mission; but in 1691 the House of Burgesses gave him a vote of thanks. See biographical sketch of Ludwell in this Magazine I, 174-178. "My Lady" was his wife, Lady Frances Berkeley.

(3) In 1688, Wm. Byrd bought Westover, 1200 acres, from Theodereck and Richard Bland.

our mother, & give our blessing to y^e Childⁿ (when you see them) wth best respects & Service to all our friends I remain

Worthy S^r

Yo^r Obedient Son & Serv^t

W B

To ffather Horsmanden

TO DANIEL HORSMANDEN

Virg'a July y^e 25th 1690

Dear S^r

I am Sorry I could receive but one from you last year, but considering your condition, was forced to excuse you, when I reflect what happiness you proposed to your Selfe in the near injoyment of So Sweet & beautiful a Mistress, but was so unfortunately prevented by one of y^e most unwellcome distempers (4) that could afflict a Lady of Youth & beauty, w^h must bee a Sensible affliction to her Lover, not only by prolonging the happy day hee had proposed, but by debarring him from the Society of the object hee held most dear & loved as himselfe; I hope this will find you & y^e (I believe I may call her your) good Lady in p^rfect health, to whom I wish all the happiness this transitory world can afford, & that you meet wth none of the thornes, but all y^e pleasures of Matrimony

My wife & family I thanke God are in good health onely lately I had one killed, two carryed away by the Indians, If y^e french come not wth them wee may bee in hopes of continueing able to indure a Small incursion now & then from y^e Indians alone. However I designe (God willing) to remove downe y^e River ab^t 20 or 30 Miles where I am now building & hope you will Send us (according to yo^r promise your, (wth yo^r fair Lady's) Picture to adorn my new house. I have ordered Will for England & left him in m^r Perry's care to put him to business, & to let him learn what may bee farther fitt to make him accomplish'd, I doubt not but you will give him

(4) Doubtless the disease was small-pox.

good advice, I likewise Order'd m^r Perry to take y^e girls from Hackny, but how to dispose of y^m know not London being no fitt place for them, & I have no relations in y^e Country, Sister Nulty hath girls enough of her owne, I would bee glad (if you & yo^r Lady thinke fitt) that you would take one or both (unless Somewhat else may offer) for Sometime, & I would willingly pay what you Should reasonably desire: I p^d y^e old Gen^t £20 ~~pp~~ m^r Perry Since I came away.

Pray my Service to S^r Charles Tirrell & my Lady, m^r Jay is (in health) att my new plantation att Westopher where I am now building to Looke after affairs there. Please to give my best respects & Service to all friends, & accept y^e Same to yo^r Selfe & Lady, w^h my utmost good wishes from

D^r S^r

Yo^r Oblidged Loveing Bro: & Humble Servant

W B

To Bro: Danll:

To——RAND

Virg'a July y^e 25th 1690

Dear S^r

I rec^d the favour of one from you this year S^d to come by Colo Ludwell, but by mistake was put on board Someother ship bound for Some remote part of the Country, w^h made itt long ere itt came to hand, However itt was very wellcome, bringing us the good news of yo^{rs} our Sisters & the family's good health w^h I pray God continue.

I doubt not but you may have had considerable taxes during these late revolutions, but Still you injoy what you have in peace whilst others daily venture a great part of theirs to Sea, where if they escape the Enemy, are often lost by Tempest. I had too Sad experience of this last year, therefore I must believe A private Gen^t life in y^e Country to bee (att this time) most eligible.

When the body is disturbed the members needs bee affected therefore wee here, can expect no Setled times, till England is in peace tho y^e greatest damage hath been here lately was by

Indians, I had one of my family kild & two carryed away ab^t a moneth Since.

My wife & girl are (I thanke God) in health, as allso all our friends & give their best respects to you & my good Sister.

Pray remember mee to Honest Dudley, m^r Knowles, & Jack Jenkins (to whom I wish much joy) wth all their good wives, & accept of my humble Service to your selfe, my Sister, & the Children, I am

D^r S^r

Yo^r affectionate Bro:
& Humble Serv^t

To Bro: Rand

W B

TO WILLIAM BYRD

Virg^a July y^e 25th 1690

Dear Son

I rec^d Severall from you this year, & had wrote to you ere this, but all y^e ships being Stop^d to goe w^h y^e Convoy, I had no other oppertunity. I am heartily glad to hear you had your health So well, & hope to find you have improved your time so, that you may answer the expectation of all your friend s.

According to your desire I have wrote to Mess^{rs} Perry & Lane to Send for you to London there to learne what may bee farther fitting for you and allso to imploy you about Business, wherein I hope you will indeavour to acquaint yourselfe that you may bee no Stranger to itt when necessity will require you to attend itt.

But above all bee mindfull of yo^r duty to Heaven, and then you may bee assured God will bless you in all your undertakings.

Pray when you come to London lett me hear from you often, for there you cannot want oppertunitys.

Yo^r mother is in health & gives you her blessing, your Sister Mary is well & all friends

God bless thee in all thy ways is the Hearty Prayer of
Thy Affectionate ffather

WB

To my Son Wm

TO MR TENSERFE

Virg'a July y^e 25th 1690S^r

I am Sorry these unhappy times have hind'ed us from Sending to your port though Indeed our Tobo hath not given any incouragem^t these two years & I fear itt this, Crops hitherto being very unlikely: ffraight being here now for London att £14 & £16 ^{pp} ton, & not to bee had neither att these rates.

Ab^t a year & a halfe Since I rec^d from Mess^{rs} Perry & Lane an $\frac{1}{2}$ Anchor of Rhenish wine, but they mention'd nothing of itt to mee, onely itt was in the Bill of Ladeing, So that I wrote to m^r Perry last year ab^t itt who told mee I was obliged to you for itt, I now returne you my hearty thanks & beg pardon I did not take notice thereof before, Since I was altogether ignorant & y^e Error was on m^r Perry's Side. The wine (although y^e Caske was Somewhat Leaky) was extraordinary Good, better then any I had in Bottles, & if wee would find a way to Settle our trade, itt would doe well, especially in this Scarcity of Clarett. I returne you my reall thanks for yo^r kindness to my Son, I have ordered him now for London as m^r Perry will informe you, & I hope pay all acknowledgements to you for yo^r civilitys w^h have ever obliged

S^rYo^r most Humble Serv^t

W B

To m^r Tenserfe

TO PERRY AND LANE.

Virg'a July y^e 19th 1690Gen^t

This I hope will come Safe to your hands ^{pp} Cap^t Ruddes wth 48 H^{ds} Tobo. & 4 of ffures & skins w^{ch} was all I could p'suade him to take on board P P allotting mee 50 H^{ds} out of y^e Charter p'ty I could not p'suade y^e Master to take y^e skins in over & above. I have 100 H^{ds} more on board taken by Charter p'ty from m^r North w^{ch} goe consigned to him, you two

must agree ab^t y^e Tobo to take itt as itt rises, or y^e Higher & Lower Numbers, as you please I was never So put to itt for freight, in my life, haveing ab^t 200 H^{ds} Still by mee, Tatnoll hath offered mee 30 H^{ds} att £14 ⁷/₈ Tun & I must be oblidged to consign itt where hee pleases truely here is now no comeing near a Master without great observance I must confess I am much too blame when I was desired by Some people of y^e greatest note & trade amongst us, to Send to Boston for a Small Ship or two, & lay out here to take up what West country men wee could, I refused trusting to yo^r former Letters that you would Secure mee freight enough, w^{ch} made mee neglect takeing itt here all y^e first part of y^e year.

I could wish I might gett an oppertunity after fleet is gone, I doubt not but I should find as good a m^ket as what goes here-with, I have Order'd a review of my Tobo on Shore & find much very faulty, I fear you may find much Such on board, I doe not question but mine may fare as well as my Neighbours. I desire you to Send for my Son to London, & put him into business, or if hee wants anything to accomplish him I desire hee might learne itt there.

Also I have thoughts of takeing the Girls from Hackny, if I could handsomely place them in y^e Country, I have wrote to my Bro: Horsmonden ab^t itt If hee is marryed hee may take one or both, I cannot thinke London a fitt place for them, & to Send for them in hither cannot bee convenient.

The 24 instant is the Auditt appointed, when God willing I shall Send you what bills I can expect this year, as also charge upon you, for y^e Govern^rs Salary &c.

I find £35, 14s. to m^r Smith for Books charged in both yo^r Acco^{ts} Viz^t in A D'o 1688 & also in y^e Last of A D'o 1689. Also a p^cell of Goods of m^r Smart w^{ch} I though had been Long Since allowed for, but if not (for I can not have time ere the fleet Sails to peruse his notes) I find some things charged that I never had Viz^t. there is 2 p^cells of fine bla: Spanish Cloth, I never had but one

2 yds ³ / ₄ fine bla: Spanish Cloth at 16	2: 2: —
3 ¹ / ₂ yds fine black cloth att 18 ⁷ / ₈ yrde	3: 3: —

I suppose I had y^e latter, for I never had but one Coat &

Breeches of Black Cloth as you may remember. Another error is

5 yds $\frac{1}{4}$ of fine Spanish ffrize att 6³/₄ yde is 1: 14: 6 w^{ch} was for Col'o Ludwells Clothes & m^r Perry s^d it should be charged to him on w^{ch} I never charged Col'o Ludwell for y^r Same.

I hope you will discourse m^r Blathwait & m^r Povey (to both of them I thinke to write at Large) about w^{ch} way I might purchase, m^r Aylway out of y^e Audito^rs place, that I might bee Settled in itt in peace Col'o Ludwell hath wrote to Aylvay the letter I designe to Send to you or m^r Povey its open & there you will find how hee utterly declines the place on any termes. Hee had formerly agreed wth Aylway to accept a Deputation for halfe Pfits, but either by Misunderstanding or otherwise m^r Aylway put two year instead of 4; But I had much rather buy itt quite out, & I believe wth y^e Assistance of m^r Blathwait & m^r Povey the thing might bee done without incurring any danger of y^e Law against purchaceing offices, Col'o Ludwell tells mee hee believes m^r Aylway would take £300 for y^e place If I might assured to bee Safe in itt, I should bee willing to give itt provided I might bee Secure then. I hope itt may bee complied wth cheaper, but must on the whole Matter leave itt to you there, who may bee much better able to Judge then wee here.

Wee have wrote to you a Generall letter about the ffriend ship therefore I shall not mention that nor y^e designe of Bradly's puike any farther, I shall bee willing to comply with what y^e Rest propose. I shall not farther trouble you, but desire you to give my blessing to y^e Children. My best respects & Service to all where due I remain

Gen^t

Yo^r Humble Serv^t

W B

To P. L. ³/₄ Ruddes

(To be continued.)